

Richmond until 1848 when her family returned to Winchester and continued to live there until the outbreak of the Civil War. She was an ardent Confederate patriot and so incurred the displeasure of General Milroy that in 1863 she was sent through the lines to Richmond, where she worked as a government clerk until the end of the War.

Returning to Winchester, she opened a Seminary for Young Ladies, which was successful, but after a few years she left the venture and became an instructor at Mary Baldwin Seminary in Staunton. But she soon left that post as well and thereafter devoted her life to literature, living in Washington, New York and other cities. She died in 1889 in Richmond and was buried in Winchester.

Among her published works were: *The Holcombes: A Story of Virginia Home Life*, *Women: or Chronicles of the Late War, Under the Pruning Knife*, and two textbooks which were widely used in public schools: *The History of Virginia* and *Stories From Virginia History*.

**MARSHALL, Catherine Wood** (1914 ) Author of *A Man Called Peter* and ten other "inspirational" books, Catherine Marshall lived in Keyser from 1924 to 1942, where her father, the Rev. John A. Wood, was minister of the First Presbyterian Church. Born in Johnson City, Tenn., she was six weeks old when her parents moved to Florida, and ten years old when they came to West Virginia, the state she considers "my home." In 1932 she graduated at the head of her class from Keyser High School, and passed up scholarship at West Virginia University because she wanted to go to Agnes Scott Presbyterian College in Atlanta, Ga. and become a writer.

It was while she was in college that she met Peter Marshall, the minister of the Atlanta Presbyterian church she attended, and who later gained fame as the Congressional Chaplain. Her father performed their marriage ceremony, in Keyser, in 1936, and in 1937, Marshall began preaching at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. It wasn't until after his death, in 1949, that Catherine Marshall began writing. Three of her books were bestsellers, *A Man Called Peter*, *To Live Again*, and *Beyond Ourselves*. In 1959 she was married again, to Len LeSourd, a writer.

**MARTIN-WILLIAMS,** Rebecca Tomlinson ( - ) was the first white woman to live in the area which is now Moundsville. A tablet marking the site of the cabin in which she lived was erected in front of the high school building in 1935 by the Tuesday Arts Club of that city. The cabin was built in 1771.

**MATTHEWS, Mary Jo** ( - ), a native of Mannington, became a successful motion picture actress for several years, before abandoning her budding career to marry Arthur Rush, head of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and to lead a quiet life as wife and mother.

She graduated from West Virginia University in 1930, went to New York and there performed on the stage for a year before she made her Hollywood debut. She appeared with John Barrymore in *Twentieth Century*, with Robert Taylor in *Society Doctor* and with Robert Montgomery, Clark Gable and Carole Lombard in *Forsaking All Others*.

**MCNEILL, Louise** is West Virginia's most honored contemporary poet. The excellance of her poetry is



LOUISE . . . "a new voice

recognized throughout the country.

Miss McNeill, in private life Mrs. Roger Waterman Pease, was born and reared on a mountain farm near Marlinton in Pocahontas County. The McNeill family has lived on that farm since pre-Revolutionary days. As a young girl she attended the two-room school house where her father taught.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G.H. McNeill. Her father, who taught school for many years, got his A.B. degree at the age of 40, went on for his A.M., and ultimately received his Ph.D. degree at the age of 65.

Miss McNeill received her Bachelor's degree in English from Concord College and her Master's degree in English from Miami University of Ohio. She later received a doctorate in history from West Virginia University

because at that time West Virginia University did not offer a doctorate in English. Her doctoral dissertation, *Kanawha and the Old South* has been published by the West Virginia University Press.

Her most famous work is *Gauley Mountain*, which was her first collection of poems, published in 1939 with a foreword written by Stephen Vincent Benet. *Gauley Mountain*, a series of historical poems tracing the lives of various West Virginia families, is heavily slanted toward pioneer life, as are many of her other poems. This volume has been reprinted in a limited edition and is one of 25 books relating to West Virginia history being supplied to high school libraries throughout the state in an effort to build up a greater knowledge of West Virginia.

*Time Is Our House*, her second volume of poetry, was published in 1942. It contains philosophical poems and a section of lyrics on World War II. This volume was



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Her most recent book of poems, *Paradox Hill: From Appalachia to Lunar Shore*, was published by the West Virginia University Library with private funds made available through the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. In this book she looks at the heritage of the Mountain State residents as she traces their consciousness from pioneer days to atomic frontiers and looks to the future with uncertainty.

Miss McNeill writes in traditional verse form. She believes, however, that the beauty of poetry lies in content and feeling rather than in form. She believes poetry should be useful — useful to the spirit, useful to relieve the mind and useful to society. She is a person with strong convictions about herself, her heritage, her homeland and its future. Miss McNeill's ability to translate these convictions into compelling poetic rhythms is what makes her poetry so beautiful.

Miss McNeill has also written several short stories about rural life, many of which were published by the *Farm Journal*.

Her name is well known to the editors and publishers of such respected national literary magazines as *Saturday Review* and *Atlantic Monthly*, which have published her poems. During the 1950's, she was a frequent contributor to the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Harpers*, and other magazines. Some of her first poems appeared in *The Daily Athenaeum*, student newspaper, when she was a student at West Virginia University in the 1920's.

Miss McNeill is now retired and living in Morgantown. She taught at Concord College,

Potomac State College, West Virginia University, in Pocahontas County elementary schools and at Aiken, South Carolina, Preparatory School, and Fairmont State College.

Miss McNeill met her husband at the Breadloaf Writers' Conference near Middlebury, Vermont. She had won a scholarship to the conference on the basis of a poem that appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Her husband, formerly of Ashfield, Mass., is a former instructor at West Virginia University. They have a son, Douglas, who is a graduate of the University of Connecticut.

In recent years, Miss McNeill has been an instructor at the Summer Writers Conference at Marietta, Ohio. She has always taken a keen interest in helping others to learn to write well. — Vaughn Lenhart.

**MILLER, Mrs. Alex McVeigh.** To be continued in our next" was the promise which kept Mrs. Alex McVeigh Miller at the writing of serial stories for nearly thirty years. An exacting promise, but keeping it brought fame and a fortune to this indefatigable woman. A daughter of our Mother State, she came as a bride to West Virginia, where she lived nearly forty of the busiest years of her life.

"I wrote romances," Mrs. Miller says, "that followed a straight course from my brain to the tip of my fountain pen." There is a glamour in make-believe stories that appeals to young and old, yet true life stories of those who have triumphed over obstacles inspire readers as no fiction can do. Mrs. Miller's autobiography, recently completed in collaboration with her daughter, is absorbingly interesting. She tells of the happy childhood in Old Virginia before

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